# From Chemistry to Spectacle: The Evolution of Power

History often disguises its turning points as biographies. John F. Kennedy and Donald J. Trump could not be more different in temperament, image, or destiny. And yet,

together, they outline a trajectory of politics in the modern age: from chemistry to spectacle, from the hidden scaffold of pharmaceuticals to the open theater of performance.

Kennedy's body was frail, his health precarious. Addison's disease, spinal

wreckage, chronic pain — by nature's logic, he should never have reached the White House. But medicine intervened. Steroids, hormones, stimulants, painkillers: chemistry kept him alive and projected vitality where weakness reigned. The public saw youth and

vigor, not fragility and dependence. Kennedy was the first pharmaceutical president, the prototype of survival through medical artifice.

Trump's body, by contrast, was not the issue. His presidency revealed a different

scaffolding: not chemistry but attention. He fused man and office, turning politics into a perpetual performance. Rage, bravado, insult — all became instruments of governance. Where Kennedy concealed his fragility, Trump flaunted his volatility. Where Kennedy built a myth of

vigor, Trump built a spectacle of grievance. He became the prototype of politics as media, the spectacle-president.

Together they chart a deeper story: the evolution of power under modern conditions. Kennedy represents the

age of pharmacology, when survival and performance were chemically sustained. Trump represents the age of spectacle, when legitimacy derives not from institutions but from the saturation of attention. One was myth through concealment, the other myth through

exposure.

The question is not whether this cycle is good or bad, but whether it is escapable. Once politics bends toward chemistry and spectacle, it rarely bends back. Societies adapt, technologies reshape the arena, and the mutation

becomes the norm. What begins as necessity becomes habit; what begins as scandal becomes structure.

Perhaps we are not leaving this circle, but moving through it. Humanity has always lived under illusions — myth, ritual, monarchy,

ideology. Today those illusions are chemical and spectacular. Tomorrow they may be algorithmic, immersive, even post-human. Kennedy and Trump are not aberrations but signals: markers of a species evolving under the pressure of its own fragility and its own

hunger for attention.

The circle, then, is not a trap but an orbit. Our task is not to break it but to see it clearly — and to decide whether we drift blindly, or whether we dare to steer.